

Framework Convention on Climate Change.

# SENATE RESOLUTION 102—RELATIVE TO INDIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mr. SPECTER submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 102

Whereas India is the world's largest democracy and shares with the United States the system in which the supreme power to govern is invested in the people;

Whereas the people of India drew upon the values of the rule of law in creating a representative democracy;

Whereas India and the United States share a common bond of being former British colonies;

Whereas India's independence was achieved pledged to the principles of fairness, dignity, peace and democracy;

Whereas these and other ideals have forged a close bond between our two nations and their peoples;

Whereas August 15, 1997 marks the 50th anniversary of the end of the struggle which freed the Indian people from British colonial rule; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Indian people, and to reaffirm the democratic principles on which our two great nations were born: Now therefore be it

*Resolved*, That August 15, 1997 is designated as Indian Independence Day: A National Day of Celebration of Indian and American Democracy. The President is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I am submitting this resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of India's independence. This resolution will designate August 15, 1997, as "Independence Day for the Nation of India," a day of celebration of Indian and American democracy.

On August 15, 1947, India came into existence and has been dedicated to democracy and the rule of law for the past 50 years. It is a multiethnic country of 950 million people, who speak more than 18 major languages and hundreds of dialects.

I have had the pleasure to visit India on a number of occasions, most recently with the distinguished Senator from Colorado, Senator BROWN, in August 1995, when we met with Prime Minister Rao. That was a fascinating meeting when the Prime Minister immediately undertook a discussion of the necessity to have the subcontinent nuclear free. Regrettably, there has been much controversy, much tension between Pakistan and India. On that occasion, Prime Minister Rao emphasized his desire to see the subcontinent nuclear free.

The next day, Senator BROWN and I had occasion to visit with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad and talk to her about establishing a nuclear free subcontinent.

Later, Senator BROWN and I wrote jointly to President Clinton urging that the President invite the Prime Ministers of India and Pakistan to the

White House to see if a nuclear free subcontinent might be accomplished with the assistance of the good offices of the United States.

I am delighted to see my distinguished colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator SANTORUM, assuming the Chair, the lofty position of presiding over the U.S. Senate. I am glad to see my colleague here.

Back to my resolution. India's democracy has thrived over the past 50 years, testimony to the fact that principles of freedom are not limited to the most prosperous countries of the West, but a country which has become independent and democratic, notwithstanding its problems with its economy.

There are strong links between the two nations, India and the United States. We are both former British colonies and, in our own civil rights struggles of the last generation, great Americans, such as Dr. Martin Luther King, borrowed the concepts of peaceful dissent from India from the teaching of India's independence leader, Mahatma Gandhi.

The number of Indian, Americans living in the United States continues to increase steadily. The rich cultural heritage and traditions of the Indian people contribute to the great diversity of the United States of America.

Relations between our countries have seen some difficulties, and there are still areas for improvement, but our mutual values of democracy and the rule of law bridge these differences.

I submit this resolution because it is proper and desirable to celebrate with the Indian people and to reaffirm the democratic principles which our two great nations cherish. I ask the American people to join with me in celebrating 50 years of India's independence.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

### THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER PARKING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1997

#### CHAFEE AMENDMENT NO. 412

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. CHAFEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 797) to amend the John F. Kennedy Center Act to authorize the design and construction of additions to the parking garage and certain site improvements, and for other purposes; as follows:

Page 3, line 7, strike "or".

Page 3, line 12, strike the first period and all that follows and insert "; or".

Page 3, after line 12, insert the following:

"(C) any project to acquire large screen format equipment for an interpretive theater or to produce an interpretive film that the Board specifically designates will be financed using sources other than appropriated funds."

Page 4, strike lines 9 through 14.

Page 4, line 15, strike "5" and insert "4".

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, today the Committee on Environment and

Public Works is reporting a bill, S. 797, the John F. Kennedy Center Parking Lot Improvement Act, as ordered reported on June 5, 1997. I am also filing a technical amendment to the bill which corrects a potential problem with respect to the funding of any large screen format equipment for an interpretive theater for the Kennedy Center. The purpose of the amendment is to ensure that the Board of Trustees of the Kennedy Center are prohibited from using appropriated funds for acquisition of such equipment.

### THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

#### LAUTENBERG AMENDMENT NO. 413

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. LAUTENBERG submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 924) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike out section 3138.

### THE VETERANS BENEFITS DENIAL ACT OF 1997

#### SPECTER (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 414

Mr. SPECTER (for himself, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. NICKLES, and Mr. INHOFE) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 923) to deny veterans benefits to persons convicted of Federal capital offenses; as follows:

On page 1 lines 4 and 5, strike "or state".

### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

#### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be allowed to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 18, 1997, at 9 a.m. in SR-328A to receive testimony regarding U.S. agricultural exports.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 18, 1997, to conduct a markup of the committee's legislative submission for the budget reconciliation package.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.